

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02710 011421Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /067 W  
-----011426Z 087383 /44

O 011341Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3770

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2710

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, ET, US  
SUBJ: U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA LATE APRIL 30 AND MAY 1 REPORTED MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE SPOKESMAN STATEMENT NOTING REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON QUOTING "GOVERNMENT SOURCES" THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS STOPPED ALL ARMS DELIVERIES TO ETHIOPIA. SOURCES STATED NEARY 100 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED MILITARY SUPPLIES AFFECTED, INCLUDING F-4E FIGHTER PLANES, M-60 TANKS AND AMMUNITION. MININFO SPOKESMAN SAID USG DECISION HAS "NOT COME AS A SURPRISE" AND IT HAD BEEN EXPECTED U.S. IMPERIALISTS WOULD TAKE SUCH AN ACTION. HOWEVER, THIS DECISION "WOULD NOT MAKE REVOLUTIONARY ETHIOPIA KNEEL BEFORE IMPERIALISTS" AND WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK WAYS TO SELF-RELIANCE WORTH OF INDEPENDENT ANTION AND HEROIC PEOPLE.

2. MININFO SPOKESMAN MAKE LINKAGE BETWEEN ALLEGED CUT-OFF TO ETHIOPIA AND ANNOUNCED ARMS SALES TO "IMPERIALIST PUPPET REGIME OF NIMEIRI" WHICH COMMITTING AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA IN VIOLATION OF UN AND OAU CHARTERS. AMERICAN ARMS AID  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 02710 011421Z

BEING DENIED TO COUNTRY FOR ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS, LEAVING IT EXPOSED TO THREATS AND SUBJECTED TO ARMED INTERVENTION FROM REACTIONARY NEIGHBORING COUNTRY. AMERICAN ARMS AID AND SALES THEREFORE CLEARLY DICTATED BY IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND AIMED AT CRUSHING REVOLUTION OF ETHIOPIAN BROAD MASSES.

3. ALTHOUGH ENGLISH VERSION OF ETHIOPIAN MEDIA REPORTS, REFTEL, DOES NOT GO AS FAR AS ACCUSING U.S. OF DIRECTLY SUPPORTING EDU, EPRP, AND ELF, IT DOES MAKE LINKAGE BETWEEN U.S. AND NIMEIRI, WHO CURRENTLY ETHIOPIA'S NUMBER ONE ENEMY.

4. THIS SAME STORY REPORTED REFTEL WHICH WHILE STILL UNPLEASANT HAS BEEN TONED DOWN FROM ORIGINAL AMHARIC VERSION, POSSIBLY BUT ONLY POSSIBLY AS RESULT OF MY TELECON WITH AF/E POST AFTER WHICH I WAS ABLE REASSURE MOFA THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO RECENT STATEMENTS MADE IN WASHINGTON (I ALSO TOLD MOFA ONCE MORE THAT USG HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH EDU, ELF, AND EPRP). WE ASSUME "REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON" REFER TO REUTERS DESPATCH (STATE 98379). DEPT'S PROMISED PRESS GUIDANCE WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE SOONEST. TIENKEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009